

PROPOSITION 1

Shall Sections 1 and 2 of Chapter III and Section 2 of Chapter IV and other sections referencing the term of office for the City Council in the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the current two (2) year terms for the City Council to three (3) year terms starting with the 2017 general election?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER III: THE CITY COUNCIL

§1. [POWERS OF CITY VESTED IN] THE CITY COUNCIL [COMPENSATION, TERMS]. The powers of the city government shall be vested in a body to be known as the City Council, composed of nine (9) members *[will be revised to increase the number of members to eleven (11) if Proposition 2 passes]*, one of whom shall be the mayor. Starting with the 2017 general election, ~~their~~ Their terms of office shall be for a period of ~~two (2)~~ three (3) years and until the election and qualification of their successors.

§2. [ELECTION, POWERS, DUTIES, TERM OF MAYOR]. The City Council shall be composed of nine (9) places *[will be revised to increase the number of places to eleven (11) if Proposition 2 passes]*. The person elected as councilperson, Place No. 1, shall be the presiding officer who shall be known as the mayor of the City of Fort Worth. He shall have a vote on all matters coming before the council, but no power of veto. He shall represent the city on all ceremonial occasions and be known as the official head of the city government. The mayor shall be elected at each ~~biennial~~ triennial election and shall serve for a period of ~~two (2)~~ three (3) years starting with the 2017 general election, or until the election and qualification of his successor.

CHAPTER IV: METHOD OF NOMINATING AND ELECTING MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

§2. NO PRIMARY ELECTION TO DETERMINE NOMINATIONS; COUNCILPERSONS TO BE SELECTED IN GENERAL ELECTION ~~BIENNIAL~~ TRIENNIAL. Primary elections to determine the selection of nominees for members of the City Council shall not be resorted to. There shall be but one (1) election, and that a general election, for the purpose of selecting members of the City Council, the same to be held ~~biennially~~ every three (3) years, on the first available election date in May specified in the Texas Election Code of odd-numbered years starting with the 2017 general election. THE REMAINDER OF THIS SECTION REMAINS UNCHANGED

IMPACT: Increases the number of years from two years to three years that a council member serves after elected

PROPOSITION 2

Shall Sections 1, 2 and 5 of Chapter III and Section 3 of Chapter IV and other sections referencing the number of council members in the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the number of City Council members from nine (9) to eleven (11) members, one of which is the mayor, beginning with the first election following the 2020 census and adoption of the new redistricting map by the City Council and to maintain the quorum at two-thirds (2/3) of the members of the City Council?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER III: THE CITY COUNCIL

§1. [POWERS OF CITY VESTED IN] THE CITY COUNCIL [;COMPENSATION, TERMS]. The powers of the city government shall be vested in a body to be known as the City Council, composed of ~~nine (9)~~ eleven (11) members, one of whom shall be the mayor. Their terms of office shall be for a period of two (2) years [*will be revised to increase the period to three (3) years if Proposition 1 passes*] and until the election and qualification of their successors.

§2. [ELECTION, POWERS, DUTIES, TERM OF MAYOR]. The City Council shall be composed of ~~nine (9)~~ eleven (11) places. The person elected as councilperson, Place No. 1, shall be the presiding officer who shall be known as the mayor of the City of Fort Worth. He shall have a vote on all matters coming before the council, but no power of veto. He shall represent the city on all ceremonial occasions and be known as the official head of the city government. The mayor shall be elected at each biennial election [*will be revised to each triennial election if Proposition 1 passes*] and shall serve for a period of two (2) years [*will be revised to increase the period to three (3) years if Proposition 1 passes*], or until the election and qualification of his successor.

§5. MEETINGS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OPEN TO PUBLIC; QUORUM; REGULATIONS OF PROCEEDINGS; COUNCIL TO PROVIDE RULES OF PROCEDURE. At the first City Council meeting after the City Council meeting canvassing the election results, the elected members of the new Council shall meet at City Hall and take the oath of office [*will be revised to allow the newly-elected City Council members to be sworn in at the same meeting at which the election results are canvassed if Proposition 5 passes*]. Special meetings may be called by the Mayor or by any three (3) Councilmembers. Such call shall be in writing and shall state the object of the meeting, and no business shall be transacted at such meeting other than that specified in the call. The Council shall meet at such times and places as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution but not less than forty-four (44) regular and special meetings shall be held each calendar year. A quorum shall consist of ~~six members (6) unless there are vacancies, in which event the quorum shall be reduced by the number of vacancies existing~~ two-thirds (2/3) of the members. All official meetings of the Council and all sessions of the Committees of the Council shall be public except as authorized by law. The ayes and nos shall be taken upon the passage of all ordinances or resolutions and entered upon the minutes of the proceedings of the Council, and every ordinance or resolution shall require on final passage the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the remaining members. No member shall be excused from voting except on matters involving the consideration of his own official conduct, or where his financial interests are involved, or unless excused by the Council for other valid reasons by majority vote. The Council shall determine its own rules of procedure, and may punish its members for misconduct, and may compel the attendance of absent members.

CHAPTER IV: METHOD OF NOMINATING AND ELECTING MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

§3. [COUNCILPERSONS TO BE ELECTED FROM DISTRICTS]. With the exception of Place No. 1 to be held by the mayor as provided for in section 2 of Chapter III of this Charter, the City Council shall provide by ordinance for ~~eight~~ ten (~~8~~10) single member districts so that with the exception of the mayor, one (1) member of the City Council shall be elected from each of such defined districts by the voters residing therein, and each candidate therefrom shall be a qualified elector of the city and shall have continuously resided in the Council District for which he or she seeks election for six (6) full months [*will be revised to 180 days if Proposition 6 passes*] before the first allowed filing date for the election. The City Council shall, as often as census data is available, determine as nearly as practicable the population of the respective districts and shall, by ordinance, revise the boundaries of any or all of said districts to maintain a substantial equality of population in each. Within sixty (60) days after passage of this amendment, the City Council shall, by ordinance, designate the original district limits.

IMPACT: Increases the number of council members from nine members to eleven beginning with the first election following the 2020 census

PROPOSITION 3

Shall Section 3 of Chapter III of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to increase the compensation of council members from the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00) per year to forty-five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) per year and the compensation of the mayor from twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$29,000.00) per year to sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) per year starting October 1, 2016?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER III: THE CITY COUNCIL

§3. COMPENSATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL. Commencing on October 1, 2016, each member of the City Council, except the mayor, shall receive as compensation for such member's services the sum of ~~twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000.00)~~ forty five thousand dollars (\$45,000.00) per annum and the mayor shall receive as compensation for the mayor's service, the sum of ~~twenty-nine thousand dollars (\$29,000.00)~~ sixty thousand dollars (\$60,000.00) per annum. In addition to the above, all necessary expenses incurred by the City Council in performance of their official duties shall be paid by the city. Nothing herein shall prohibit a council member from waiving the right to all or any part of such compensation or payment of expenses

IMPACT: Increases the salaries of the Mayor and Council Members in October of 2016

Proposition 4

If Proposition 1 is approved by the voters, shall Section 4 of Chapter III of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to allow a majority of the City Council to appoint a qualified person from the district whose place has been vacated to serve the unexpired term if the vacancy occurs twelve (12) months or less prior to the end of an unexpired term?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER III: THE CITY COUNCIL

§4. VACANCIES IN THE CITY COUNCIL; HOW FILLED. Vacancies in the City Council shall be filled by special elections from the districts whose places have been vacated. Vacancies in the office of mayor shall be filled under the provisions applicable to other council members except that the district of the mayor shall be the city as a whole. These special elections shall be held on the first available election date specified in the Texas Election Code unless the council shall request, and receive, permission from the governor to call an emergency special election. If vacancies should occur within thirty (30) days of the special election date, the council may set the election for the next date following the impending special election date or it may request permission for an emergency special election from the governor. In the event any candidate for a vacancy fails to receive a majority of all votes cast for all the candidates for such vacancy at such special election, the mayor shall on the first day following the completion of the official count of the ballots cast at said special election issue a call for a run-off election pursuant to Chapter IV, section 2, to be held in accordance with the Texas Election Code to determine who shall be elected. Such new council members, when duly qualified and elected, shall serve for the unexpired period of the terms of the council members whose offices are being filled. However, no such elections shall be held where said vacancy shall occur within a period of twelve (12) months or less ~~of less than ninety (90) days~~ prior to a general election as specified in Chapter IV, section 2. When a vacancy shall occur twelve (12) months or less ~~less than ninety (90) days~~ prior to the general election as specified in Chapter IV, section 2, a majority of the remaining council members may appoint a qualified person from the district whose place has been vacated to serve the unexpired term. Should a vacancy occur in the office of mayor, the mayor pro tem shall serve until a special election shall be called under the rules pertaining to filling vacancies among the other council members. If members of the City Council seek the office of mayor in such a special election, they shall first resign from the City Council, and special elections, simultaneous to the mayoral election, shall be held in their districts under the terms specified above.

IMPACT: If Proposition 1 passes, it would allow a council seat that is vacant to be filled by a majority of the City Council, provided the seat will be vacant 12 months or less prior to the next election

PROPOSITION 5

Shall the first paragraph of Section 5 of Chapter III of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to provide that the newly-elected City Council members may be sworn in at the same meeting at which the election results are canvassed provided the meeting is held within the City limits of Fort Worth? § 5. Meetings of council and committees open to the public; quorum; regulation of proceedings; council to provide rules of procedure.

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER III: THE CITY COUNCIL

§5. MEETINGS OF COUNCIL AND COMMITTEES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC; QUORUM; REGULATION OF PROCEEDINGS; COUNCIL TO PROVIDE RULES OF PROCEDURE. ~~At the first City Council meeting after the City Council meeting canvassing the election results, the elected members of the new Council shall meet at City Hall and take the oath of office.~~ The City Council shall hold a meeting within the city limits of Fort Worth for the purpose of canvassing the election results. The elected members of the new Council may take the oath of office at the same City Council meeting where the election results are canvassed, but all elected members shall take the oath of office no later than the next City Council meeting after the results are canvassed. Special meetings may be called by the Mayor or by any three (3) Councilmembers. Such call shall be in writing and shall state the object of the meeting, and no business shall be transacted at such meeting other than that specified in the call. The Council shall meet at such times and places as may be prescribed by ordinance or resolution but not less than forty-four (44) regular and special meetings shall be held each calendar year. A quorum shall consist of six members (6) unless there are vacancies, in which event the quorum shall be reduced by the number of vacancies existing [*will be revised to a quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of the members if Proposition 2 passes*]. All official meetings of the Council and all sessions of the Committees of the Council shall be public except as authorized by law. The ayes and nos shall be taken upon the passage of all ordinances or resolutions and entered upon the minutes of the proceedings of the Council, and every ordinance or resolution shall require on final passage the affirmative vote of a majority of all of the remaining members. No member shall be excused from voting except on matters involving the consideration of his own official conduct, or where his financial interests are involved, or unless excused by the Council for other valid reasons by majority vote. The Council shall determine its own rules of procedure, and may punish its members for misconduct, and may compel the attendance of absent members.

IMPACT: Will allow the mayor and council members to be sworn in at the same time the votes are canvassed

PROPOSITION 6

Shall Sections 1 and 3 of Chapter IV of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to clarify that a person seeking election to the City Council must have resided in the district for which he or she seeks election for 180 days prior to the first allowed filing date for the election?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER IV: METHOD OF NOMINATING AND ELECTING MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

§1. COUNCILPERSONS; ELIGIBILITY. Only qualified voters under the laws of Texas, twenty-one (21) years of age and over, who have continuously resided in the Council District for which he or she seeks election for ~~six (6) full months before~~ 180 days before the first allowed filing date for the election, shall be eligible to the office of councilperson. The first allowed filing date shall not be included in calculating the 180 days.

§3. [COUNCILPERSONS TO BE ELECTED FROM DISTRICTS]. With the exception of Place No. 1 to be held by the mayor as provided for in section 2 of Chapter III of this Charter, the City Council shall provide by ordinance for eight (8) single member districts [*will be revised to increase the number of single member districts to ten (10) if Proposition 2 passes*] so that with the exception of the mayor, one (1) member of the City Council shall be elected from each of such defined districts by the voters residing therein, and each candidate therefrom shall be a qualified elector of the city and shall have continuously resided in the Council District for which he or she seeks election for ~~six (6) full months before~~ 180 days before the first allowed filing date for the election. The first allowed filing date shall not be included in calculating the 180 days. The City Council shall, as often as census data is available, determine as nearly as practicable the population of the respective districts and shall, by ordinance, revise the boundaries of any or all of said districts to maintain a substantial equality of population in each. Within sixty (60) days after passage of this amendment, the City Council shall, by ordinance, designate the original district limits.

IMPACT: Clarifies that a candidate must live in district 180 days before the election

PROPOSITION 7

Shall Chapter VII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to add a new section to provide that municipal judges will be appointed and may be removed for cause by a majority vote of the City Council?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER VII: MUNICIPAL COURT

§3. APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF MUNICIPAL JUDGES. The chief judge and associate judges shall be selected and appointed by majority vote of all the members of the city council to serve specified terms. Initial appointment and reappointment to any term is at the sole discretion of the city council.

The chief judge and associate judges may be removed during their term of office by a majority vote of all members of the city council. Removal may include any one or more of the following grounds: dereliction of duty, incompetency, incapacity to serve, misconduct or conduct discrediting the position.

IMPACT: Allows removal of municipal judges for cause

PROPOSITION 8

Shall Section 2 of Chapter X of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to provide for budget hearings, adoption and publication of the budget, appropriation ordinance and tax levy ordinance in accordance with State law?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER X: THE BUDGET AND FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RELATING THERETO

§2. ANNUAL ~~appropriations ordinance~~ BUDGET. Public hearings on the manager's proposed budget shall be held and notice of such hearings shall be provided in accordance with applicable state law; however, no less than one (1) public hearing shall be held on the budget following notice of such hearing. The budget shall not be adopted at the same meeting as the public hearing. The annual appropriations ordinance providing funding for the proposed budget, shall be introduced for first reading at the first City Council meeting following the council's receipt of the city manager's proposed budget. A along with a corresponding ad valorem tax levy ordinance shall also be considered by the City Council at the same meeting the City Council considers approving the budget. introduced at the same time. Public hearings on the appropriations ordinance and the tax levy ordinance shall be a part of each regular City Council meeting agenda until such a time as these ordinances are adopted. The appropriations ordinance shall be published in the city's official newspaper after its initial reading. The City Council shall not approve the budget (second reading of the appropriations ordinance) until at least ten (10) days after this publication. Following the second reading and final passage of the appropriations ordinance, it shall again be published in the city's official newspaper, along with a schedule of changes made by the council to the city manager's

~~originally proposed budget.~~ Upon approval of the budget, the caption of the appropriations ordinance shall be published once, and the caption and penalty of the ad valorem tax levy ordinance shall be published twice in the City's official newspaper. The final approved budget and the full text of each ordinance shall be posted on the city's website and filed in the city secretary's office and made available for public inspection. The budget will become effective upon ~~this second publication.~~ approval by City Council. The appropriations ordinance and ad valorem tax levy ordinance shall become effective upon publication in accordance with this section.

IMPACT: Public hearings and publications will be handled in compliance with state law, reducing costs

PROPOSITION 9

Shall Section 6 of Chapter XX of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to clarify that when competing ordinances are presented to the voters at an election that the ordinance that receives the highest number of favorable votes prevails?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER XX: THE INITIATIVE

§6. INITIATIVE BALLOTS. The ballot used in voting upon an initiated ordinance shall state the caption of the ordinance and below the caption shall set forth on separate lines the words, "For the Ordinance" and "Against the Ordinance." Where an initiated ordinance and an alternative ordinance proposed by the council are submitted, the ballot shall state the captions of each ordinance, clearly designating them "Ordinance No. 1" and "Ordinance No. 2," respectively, and shall set forth below the captions on separate lines the words "For Ordinance No. 1," and "For Ordinance No. 2," ~~and "Against Both Ordinances."~~ Where an initiated ordinance and an alternative ordinance are submitted each voter shall vote "For" only one ordinance ~~or "Against Both Ordinances," and a vote for one ordinance shall be counted as a vote against the other ordinance.~~ Where an initiated ordinance and an alternative ordinance are submitted to the voters, the measure that receives the highest number of favorable votes shall prevail in that election. If a majority of the votes cast is in favor of a submitted ordinance, it shall thereupon be effective as an ordinance of the city.

IMPACT: Clarifies that the ordinance with highest number of affirmative votes prevails

PROPOSITION 10

Shall Chapter XXVII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to add Section 21 to provide for electronic and other web based publications and notices as a substitute for newspaper publications where allowed by State law?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER XXVII: MISCELLANEOUS

§21. ~~[REPEALED]~~ PROVIDING PUBLIC NOTICE BY ELECTRONIC AND WEB BASED PUBLICATIONS WHERE ALLOWED BY STATE LAW. The City may provide public notice by utilizing electronic and other web based publications and notices as a substitute for newspaper publications where allowed by State law. Electronic and web based publications and notices shall meet any content or deadlines or other date requirements established by law or rule for publishing that notice in a newspaper. The notice or link must be placed in a prominent place on the home page of the City's website.

IMPACT: Allows the City to utilize electronic notices if allowed by state law

PROPOSITION 11

Shall Section 8 of Chapter III and Section 7 of Chapter XXVII of the Fort Worth City Charter be amended to eliminate the provisions in each section that are in conflict with State and Federal law?

CHARTER LANGUAGE IF APPROVED:

CHAPTER III: THE CITY COUNCIL

~~§8. RELATING TO CITY COUNCILPERSONS ACCEPTING DIFFERENT OFFICE AND PROVIDING FOR FORFEITURE OF OFFICES AND POSITIONS OF ASPIRANTS FOR COMPENSATED OFFICE. No person elected to the City Council shall, during the term for which he/she was elected, be appointed to any office or position in the service of the city. If a member of the council shall become a candidate for nomination or election to any public office, other than that of councilperson, he/she shall forfeit his place in the council; but shall continue to hold the office until a successor is duly qualified in cases in which such holdover is required by state law and any appointive officer or employee of the city who shall become a candidate for nomination or election to any public office shall immediately forfeit the office or employment held under the city.~~

CHAPTER XXVII: MISCELLANEOUS

~~§7. STANDARD WAGE TO PREVAIL IN DIRECT EMPLOYMENT OF CITY. Standard wages shall be paid for all classes of employment in the service of the city.~~

IMPACT: Removes Charter provisions inconsistent with state and federal law